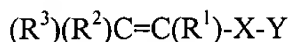


ii). one or more precursor groups that are precursors of the functional groups that can be titrated with base; which precursor groups are converted to the functional groups;

wherein at least one of the ethylenically unsaturated monomers is according to the formula:



wherein:

Y is  $-C(O)OR^4$ ;  $-O-S(O_2)OR^4$ ;  $-S(O_2)OR^4$ ; or  $-S(O)OR^4$ ; wherein  $R^4$  is hydrogen or a cleavage permitting group;

X is a direct bond; a straight or branched alkylene group having ~~two~~ one to six carbon atoms (~~preferably C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>3</sub>~~), one or more of which can be replaced by O, S, or N heteroatoms, provided that there is no heteroatom in a position  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$  to Y; phenylene; a five or six membered heteroarylene having up to three heteroatoms independently selected from O, S, and N, provided that neither Y or  $R^3R^2C=C(R^1)-$   $(R^3)(R^2)C=C(R^1)-$  is bonded to a heteroatom; and

$R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are independently selected from, hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, carboxy, halogen, cyano, isocyanato, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl having 2 to 12 carbon atoms, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> haloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cyanoalkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> carboxyalkyl, aryl, hydroxyaryl, haloaryl, cyanoaryl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxyaryl, carboxyaryl, nitroaryl, or a group  $-X-Y$ ; wherein C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy groups are either linear or branched and up to Q-2 carbon atoms of any C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkyl group, wherein Q is the total number of ring carbon atoms in the cycloalkyl group, are independently replaced with O, S, or N heteroatoms; with the proviso that neither doubly-bonded carbon atom is directly bonded to O or S; and wherein aryl is phenyl or a 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl having up to three heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of O, S, and N.

2. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the linking moiety is formed by copolymerization of an ethylenically unsaturated linking agent, and the mole fraction of ethylenic double bonds in the combination from which the polyanionic polymer is made that is contributed by the ethylenically unsaturated linking agent is 0.02 or less.

3. (Original) The composition of claim 1, comprising a microgel formed of the polyanionic polymer.